

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

17. In a process for protective fabrication of a composite structure to be exposed to seawater environments, the improvement residing in a sequence of steps including: a) forming a barrier; b) introducing a fire resisting agent into the barrier after said forming thereof; c) forming a substrate; and d) attaching the barrier to the substrate in underlying relation thereto before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; wherein said introducing of the fire resisting agent comprises: infusion into the barrier.

18. (Cancelled).

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19. In a process for protective fabrication of a composite structure to be exposed to seawater environments, the improvement residing in a sequence of steps including: a) forming a barrier; b) introducing a fire resisting agent into the barrier after said forming thereof; c) forming a substrate; and d) attaching the barrier to the substrate in underlying relation thereto before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; wherein said attaching of the barrier to the substrate is performed by providing an adhesive between the barrier and the substrate.

20. In a process for protective fabrication of a composite structure to be exposed to seawater environments, the improvement residing in a sequence of steps including: a) forming a barrier; b) introducing a fire resisting agent into the barrier after said forming thereof; c) forming a substrate; and d) attaching the barrier to the substrate in underlying relation thereto before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; wherein said introducing of the fire resisting agent is performed by infusion thereof into the barrier during said forming of the substrate to effect said attaching of the barrier to the substrate without using an adhesive.